GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1882
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2007
RETURN OF ONE OIL BLOCK IN KUTCH BY RELIANCE INDUSTRIES
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered Reliance Industries to return one oil block in Kutch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reliance shall have to return four blocks and also pay penalty for not being able to complete the work; and

(d) if so, whether the Government has invited fresh bids for all four blocks including the one at Kutch; and

(e) if so, the time bound programmes framed for it?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS(SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e): One block namely GK-OSN-97/1 in Kutch has been relinquished by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) as per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provisions.
In addition to the above block, M/s RIL surrendered four exploration blocks to Government of India out of which three were in KG Basin. RIL as Operator has tentatively paid liquidated damages against the Unfinished Minimum Work Programme in respect of the blocks.
The relinquished acreages get recycled and offered in future rounds of NELP Bidding depending on their prospectivity and status of exploration.